COMMANDERS DIGEST

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President Johnson Embarks On 17-Day Far East Tour

President Johnson departed Dulles Airport in Washington Oct. 17 for Honolulu on the first leg of a 25,000-mile trip through the Far East.

The President plans to visit at least six nations during the 17-day journey.

High point of the trip will be his attendence at the Oct. 24-25 Manila summit conference, proposed by Philippine President Ferdinand E. Marcos. At the conference, the heads of government of the U.S., Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Thailand and the Republic of Vietnam are expected to review the Vietnam war situation, search for peace measures, deal with non-military efforts in the Republic of Vietnam and discuss possibilities for wider cooperation among free Asian powers.

Other stops on the Presidential trip are: Australia, New Zealand, Thailand, Malaysia, American Samoa, and the Republic of Korea.

Vietnam Conflict Presents Challenge to Air Weaponry

The Vietnam Conflict is leaving permanent marks on the Air Force's classic tactical air roles, Maj. Gen. Robert F. Worley told the American Ordnance Association at its Oct. 5 Annual Defense Preparedness Meeting in Los Angeles, Calif.

"One challenge for all of us—industry and the Air Force alike—is to develop an air-to-air fighter, both missile and gun equipped. The gun, in particular, needs imaginative engineering. It has not kept pace with other ordnance."

Tactical Air Command's Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations Command and Control did not downgrade the missile but he stressed a new approach to the aerial cannon is a must.

Touching on operations with ground forces, he pointed out that the air umbrella covering the Army's air cavalry and other mobile forces does not fit the classical definition for interdiction or close support.

"General McConnell has used the term 'air-to-ground' combat and he defined it as 'a closely integrated team effort between the combat forces on the ground and those in the air.' "

NEW DUTIES BRIEFING—In staff war room of Seventh Fleet flagship USS Oklahoma City, Capt. Leslie H. Sell (right), is briefed on his new duties as chief of staff by VAdm. John J. Hyland (center), commander of the 190-ship fleet, and Capt. Victor A. Dybdal. Capt. Sell relieved Capt. Dybdal as chief of staff for Commander U.S. Seventh Fleet Oct. 6.

SecDef Reports on Progress Of RVN Military Operations

Defense Secretary Robert S. McNamara has returned from what he called "A very productive visit to South Vietnam," and in a planeside interview at Andrews AFB, Washington, D. C., said military progress in the past 12 months "has exceeded our expectations."

The secretary said the Viet Cong were unable to mount their planned monsoon offensive this year to cut the country in half. Attacks on their lines of communication, he said, have caused them to shift away from the Ho Chi Minh Trail through the Demilitarized Zone.

This, Secretary McNamara said, was an attempt to shorten the lines and avoid heavy losses. "I think they will be equally unsuccessful in avoiding those losses in their present route."

Secretary McNamara restated President Johnson's announcement of last year that commanders will be supplied with whatever they require to accomplish their objectives.

"But," he said, "I want to emphasize that I see no reason to expect any significant increase in the level or tempo of operations in South Vietnam in the foreseeable future, nor do I see any reason to believe that deployments of U.S. forces to that country will change significantly in the future."

Washington Memos

VIETNAM RURAL RECONSTRUCTION efforts or Pacification Program has proven sound, in the opinion of Defense Secretary McNamara. He cites Gen. Thang for vigorous leadership, calling him one of the ablest administrators he has ever been associated with. But the Defense Chief cautions that one must recognize progress has been very slow. "This is one of the areas that requires the attention of the Government of Vietnam and the Free World forces during the next year," he said.

SAFETY RECORD OF Atlantic Fleet Naval Air Force has earned Chief of Naval Operations "Readiness Through Safety" Award. This is first time for a major operating command with more than 50 percent of its units combat deployed or in high tempo operation. VAdm. C. T. Booth, Commander Naval Air Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, accepted the award from CNO in Washington, D. C.

AF UNDER SECRETARY NORMAN S. PAUL will present achievement awards recognizing contributions of individuals and major air commands to AF Cost Reduction Program during past year. Ceremony will be held at Randolph AFB, Tex., Oct. 26.

TWO NUCLEAR SUBMARINES, Whale and Sunfish, were launched in mid-October at Quincy, Mass. Both are attack submarines and bear Navy's SSN designation.

HUGHES TROPHY WON by 32nd Fighter Interceptor Squadron based at Seesterberg, Netherlands. To win, Squadron competed against other Air Defense Squadrons around the world. 1966 Hughes Trophy winners are equipped with F-102 Delta Daggers and were cited for "outstanding achievements in airborne intercept operations."

PERSONAL "WELL DONE" was expressed by Adm. U. S. Grant Sharp, CINC, Pacific, observing Strategic Air Command's 5,000th B-52 sortie in Vietnam. He said effective application of such tremendous power has demoralized enemy and inspired Free World forces.

TWO HUNDRED-SEVENTY-FIVE schools across the nation will have Air Force Junior ROTC programs by Fiscal Year 1971. Pilot Air Force Junior ROTC program was implemented in 20 high schools across the nation this fall. This new program, with emphasis on aerospace education, was authorized by the ROTC Vitalization Act of 1964.

PERT TRAINING COURSES for officials at the GS-13 and major or lieutenant commander levels set for three separate eight-hour sessions Jan. 17, 20 and 31. Nominations for the "Pert (Program Evaluation Review Technique) Orientation For Executives" should reach Director of Personnel, the Pentagon 3B-347, Wash., D.C., no later than Dec. 20. Each nomination should contain a brief explanation of the relation of the training to the nominee's official duties and should give name, rank or grade, position title, and current telephone extension.

SENIOR ARMY MEMBER of Military Studies and Liaison Division, Weapons Systems Evaluation Group, is Army Maj. Gen. William A. Enemark, whose appointment was announced in early October.

FIRST WOMEN MARINES ever assigned to Okinawa and Japan are reporting for duty this month. Women marines are serving in Hawaii and in limited numbers in Europe and the Caribbean area.

NEW BOMB WINGS in western Pacific, the 91st from Glasgow AFB, Mont., and the 306th from McCoy AFB, Fla., have arrived to replace Strategic Air Command 4133rd Bomb Wing aircraft and crews from 484th Bomb Wing, Turner AFB, Ga., and 28th Bomb Wing at Ellsworth AFB, S.D.

AIR FORCE CHIEF of Staff Gen. John P. McConnell visited his counterparts in Japan and Korea, Oct. 8-13. Visits were at invitation of Chief of Staff of Japanese Air Self Defense Force and Chief of Staff of Republic of Korea Air Force.

U.S. STRIKE COMMAND observed fifth anniversary Oct. 9 with birthday celebration at MacDill AFB, Fla. Five years ago Gen. Paul D. Adams was selected by President Kennedy to form new command capable of providing rapid military response to crisis situations throughout the world. Formation of Strike Command was last step in placing all U.S. combat forces under Department of Defense unified or specified command direction.

OFFICER CANDIDATES WANTED by woman marines, and Marine Headquarters stresses that many enlisted woman marines may qualify for enrollment. Marine Corps Order 1110.14C spells out the academic, physical, mental and general requirements.

SEABEES IN VIETNAM participate in Medical Civic Action Program (MEDCAP), aimed at helping rural Vietnamese, in addition to their construction duties. Seabee medics have treated as many as 3,000 villagers in one month, many of whom have never seen a doctor or taken prescribed medication.

RESERVE GENERAL OFFICER Selection Board that meets Dec. 1 requires annual Officer Performance Reports (AF Forms 706 & 707) to be submitted to headquarters not later than Nov. 18, Air Force has announced. Reporting requirement includes those colonels who are assigned Standby Reserve, regardless of 10 point minimum.

COMMANDERS DIGEST

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Background for Commanders

THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE*

We must turn to one of the great unfinished tasks of our generation—and that is making Europe whole again. Our purpose is not to overturn other governments, but to help the people of Europe to achieve:

• A continent in which the peoples of Eastern and Western Europe work together for the common good;

• A continent in which alliances do not confront each other in bitter hostility, but instead provide a framework in which West and East can act together in order to assure the security of all.

In a restored Europe, Germany can and will be united.

This remains a vital purpose of American policy. It can only be accomplished through a growing reconciliation [between East and West]. We must move ahead on three fronts:

First, to modernize NATO and strengthen other Atlantic alliances.

Second, to further the integration of the Western European community.

Third, to quicken progress in East-West relations.

I. Strengthening NATO

• We are streamlining NATO command arrangements.

• We are moving to establish a permanent nuclear planning committee.

• We are increasing the speed and certainty of supply across the Atlantic.

There is much more that we must do.

The Alliance must become a forum for increasingly close consultations.

The Atlantic Alliance is the central instrument of the entire Atlantic community. But it is not the only one. Through other institutions, the nations of the Atlantic are hard at work on constructive enterprise.

In the Kennedy Round, we are negotiating with the other free world nations to reduce tariffs everywhere. We are engaged on the problem of international monetary reform. We are exploring how best to develop science and technology as a common resource. Last—and perhaps most important—we are working together to accelerate the growth of the developing nations.

II. Pursuing Western Unity

To pursue unity is neither to postpone nor neglect our search for peace. There are good reasons for this.

• A united Western Europe can be our equal partner in helping to build a peaceful and just world order.

• A united Western Europe can move more confidently in peaceful initiatives toward the East.

• Unity can provide a framework within which a unified Germany can be a full partner without arousing fears.

Our task is to achieve a reconciliation with the East—a shift from the narrow concept of coexistence to the broader vision of peaceful engagement.

III. Improving East-West Relations

I am asking for early congressional action on the United States-Soviet Consular Agreement. We have just signed a new United States-Soviet Cultural Agreement. We intend to press for legislative authority to negotiate trade agreements which could extend most-favored-nation tariff treatment to European Communist states. We have just concluded an air agreement with the Soviet Union.

New Steps

1. We will reduce export controls on East-West trade with respect to hundreds of nonstrategic items.

2. I have today signed a determination that will allow the Export-Import Bank to guarantee commercial credits to Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

3. The Secretary of State is reviewing the possibility of easing the burden of Polish debts to the U.S.

4. The Export-Import Bank is prepared to finance American exports for the Soviet-Italian Fiat auto plant.

5. We are negotiating a civil air agreement with the Soviet Union. This will facilitate tourism.

6. We intend to liberalize [travel to Communist countries] still further.

7. The Soviet Union and the United States have begun to exchange cloud photographs taken from weather satellites.

Our aim is a true European reconciliation. We want to make this clear to the East.

We shall persevere in efforts to try to reach an agreement banning the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The United States will continue to play its part in effective Western deterrence. The Atlantic Allies will, of course, continue to study what strength NATO needs, in light of the changing technology and the current threat.

Reduction of Soviet forces in Central Europe would, of course, affect the extent of that threat.

If changing circumstances should lead to a gradual and balanced revision in force levels on both sides, the revision could—together with other steps—help gradually to shape an entirely new political environment.

The building of true peace and reconciliation in Europe, of course, will be a very long process.

The bonds between the United States and its Atlantic partners provide the strength on which the entire security of this world depends. Our interdependence is complete.

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* *Excerpts from President Johnson's remarks to the National Conference of Editorial Writers in New York.*

Modified Holiday Draft Quota Set by Defense

DOD has requested Selective Service System to provide Armed Forces Examining and Induction Stations with 12,100 inductees the first 16 days of December with no inductions requested for the remainder of that month.

The half-month call is to avoid the entrance of inductees into active duty during the holiday season. Army training schedules have been modified accordingly.

A request was also made to reduce the November requirement by 6,100, from 43,700 to 37,600. This is due to a greater than expected number of enlistments and reenlistments in recent months.

All inductees for November and December will be assigned to the Army.

Air Force Contracts For UFO Investigations

Air Force has let a $300,000 contract with the University of Colorado to conduct independent investigations into unidentified flying object (UFO) reports.

Former National Bureau of Standards Director Dr. Edward U. Condon, now a professor of physics at Colorado University and a fellow of the Joint Laboratory for astrophysics, will direct the scientific phase of the project.

The chairman of the university's psychology department is part of the group working on the UFO study.

The National Academy of Science also has indicated a willingness to participate by appointing a panel to review the work of the investigation team.

The scientists are being asked "to make recommendations on the Air Force's methods of investigating and evaluating UFO reports—a program known as Project Blue Book."

The Air Force said it expects a report sometime in early 1968.

DISCUSS PROGRESS—Growth and progress of Defense Language Institute, Presidio of Monterey, Calif., is discussed by Col. Richard J. Long, Commandant (left), with Brig. Gen. James L. Collins Jr., during recent visit. Gen. Collins, now assigned to duties in the Pentagon, served as commandant of Institute when it was known as Army Language School, and then in 1963 led DLI through its first year as a DOD agency under Army management.

New Air National Guard Airlift Missions Begun

The Air National Guard has begun airlift missions to Australia, Europe and South America using C-97 Stratofreighter and C-121 Super Constellation aircraft.

The Australia flights originate at Travis AFB, Calif. This is one of 75 Southeast Asia support trips flown each month by ANG heavy transports.

Another new weekly flight originates at Charleston AFB, S.C., for flights to Howard AFB, Canal Zone, and Bogota, Colombia.

Air Guard units recently absorbed twice-weekly flights to Spain and France that had previously been flown by Military Airlift Command C-130 aircraft. These flights originate from Norfolk Naval Air Station, Va.

Christmas Phone Call Program Plans Announced

The "Hi-Mom" Christmas telephone program offers a different approach this year, providing more than 4,000 free calls between overseas service personnel and their stateside families —an anticipated 100 percent increase over last year.

Communications Workers of America (CWA) provide funds and receive cooperation from United Service Organizations, Incorporated (USO) and Department of Defense. The program is in its 10th year.

Guidance this year specifies that all calls will be made collect by the service member to his stateside family, which is a departure from previous years when all calls were prepaid. CWA picks up the bill for the collect calls.

When a local CWA union awards a call to a stateside family, they must notify the overseas member to call collect at a certain time. When USO or a local military commander awards a call to the overseas member, he must alert his stateside family when to expect the collect call.

The overseas member should coordinate his plans with his commander, insuring that the member will be available at the prescribed time to make the call.

MAW Test Firings Begin in Spring, 1967

Test firing of Army's Medium Range Antitank-Assault Weapons System (MAW) will begin early next spring on an overland range at Cape Kennedy, Fla.

MAW is designed to satisfy the front line soldiers' need for a guided missile system light enough for one man to carry. It weighs 27 pounds, may be shoulder fired, and has a warhead that will destroy most armor and other infantry battlefield targets.

The system is reported to be superior in range, accuracy, and lethality to the 90mm recoilless rifle it will replace.

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